

Acting President

Divided States of America

By Bud Labitan

Version 2020 Campaign

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ISBN: 978-0-359-96272-3

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to my friend Dr. Rene Murillo for acting as my campaign Treasurer. Even though I am running a no-fundraising and no-spending campaign, the FEC, Federal Elections Commission required a treasurer's name for filing. So, we have a good laugh about this.

I know that my chances of gaining traction and winning are very very low. However, I think and feel that I can do the job better than all the current candidates. This book is about my vision, positions, and campaign.

You may wonder... Why did you file to become President when you know you have no chance at winning? I disagree. I admit that the odds of gaining traction are very very difficult. However, things happen when the great silent majority of people decide to go in a better direction.

I do not like the negative fighting by the two major parties, Republicans and Democrats, who still seem to unite on overspending the people's money. I think that I can do the job better than all the current candidates because an independent like me might be able to bring both sides closer together for respectful negotiation. I want Congress to have a renewed focus on strengthening the American Middle.

Generally, Americans have been open minded and innovative. We all have the right to pursue Life, Liberty, and Happiness. So, if I have a better vision and policies for a greater American future, this is a journey worth taking a risk on. In my view, our children and grandchildren deserve better.

Fighting the good fight for Middle America is worth the efforts. My campaign site on Facebook is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/479770335913630/>

Bud Labitan

INTRODUCTION

I answer these questions in sequential fashion. 1. Why did you file to become President when you know you have no chance at all? I disagree. I admit that the odds of gaining traction are very very difficult sometimes. However, things happen when the great silent majority of people decide to go in a better direction. Generally, Americans have been open minded and innovative. We all have the right to pursue Life, Liberty, and Happiness. So, a better vision and policies implemented for a greater American future is worth taking a risk on. In my view, our children and grandchildren deserve better.

2. You have not held a political office nor lead an organization. True, I have not held political office. Neither did Donald Trump. I was president of my medical school's student government association and participated on Porter County's board of health. I have led a small business and studied numerous businesses mentioned in a couple of my books. So, I have learned a few useful things along the way by studying the Berkshire Hathaway family of businesses built by Warren Buffet and Charlie Munger.

3. I think your doing this to express your political views. There is some truth in this because my political views are moderate, and my economic views are rational and sensible. What kind of President do I want to be? I would like to be a good leader like George Washington, wise and uniting like Abraham Lincoln, a disciplined statesman like Dwight D. Eisenhower, inspiring like John Kennedy, politically astute like Lyndon Johnson, humble like Jimmy Carter, forgiving like Gerry Ford, an optimistic and friendly communicator like Ronald Reagan, a fatherly Commander like George H. W. Bush, inspirational like Bill Clinton, protective like George W. Bush, polite like Barack Obama, and entertaining like Donald Trump. While these are ideals, you get the idea. Each new President should strive to be a better version of his or her predecessors, while serving all of our citizens.

4. ...and to advertise yourself for business purposes. In my view, there may be a little bit of truth and ego in this allegation. But, allow me to explain a few other factors in my decision. In this past year, I have lost 4 high school classmates from the class of 1978. This got me to thinking. Have I done anything substantial? While I have had a good life, and their lives have ended, to give back to this great country with the knowledge or experiences I have accumulated? Have I maximized the abilities or gifts that God has given me? True, I have been a good student, a good doctor, a decent author, and a fairly good analyst of finance, economics, and valuation. However, I can do more to help my fellow human beings.

So, let's get back to the main question. Why do I want to be President? I think and feel that I can do the job better than all the current candidates. I filed an exploratory filing with the Federal Elections Commission to run for President of the United States as an Independent. My political views are moderate, and my economic views are sensible. I like people and believe that every human being deserves respect. Likewise, while we may disagree on policies, I believe that every nation deserves respect. I do not like the negative fighting by the two major parties who still seem to unite on overspending the people's money. I say like Ross Perot did: "Throw the Bums out!" and let us have sensible term limits. Know that I started out as a Republican moderate. In 2016, I leaned towards the Libertarian Party because of their basic stance towards smaller government and less intrusiveness in social issues. While this social media campaign is highly unconventional, I believe I can do a good job, and hire an able, experienced, honest, and trustworthy staff. Win or Lose, we will get our views heard.

I was born on January 9th, 1960 in Welch West Virginia. I am a Christian with views that lean towards the ideals of the early days of a pre-organized church. My father was from the Philippines and my mother is from West Virginia. Both were loving parents and did their best to raise good children as educated and law abiding citizens. I respect the US Military. Two of my uncles served in the US Air Force and one uncle in the US Navy. My brothers and sister were born in the Philippines. So, you could say that Mom and I are the only ones eligible to run for this office. In my

view, a law that permits a naturalized citizen of good standing who has lived in the United States for over 20 years should be permitted to run. My siblings are as American as I am. And, they too love our country.

My education includes earning a BS in Biological Sciences. I am also a MD with an MBA. Early in my career, I was a Board Certified Family Physician and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. I have also been a small time stock investor, speaker, and author of several books on decision framing and decision making, as well as valuation. I also look fondly back at the time I was a grocery stock boy, Inland Steel labor worker, and Resident Assistant at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. In me you are getting a 59 year old candidate in good health and spirit, with a good memory, and a good heart. Mostly, I like people and believe that every human being deserves respect.

While my friends might say I am a serious guy who talks slowly, I am always analyzing and thinking. Put a good band in front of me and I might just pull out my harmonica and join in. If you elect me, I will invite political leaders of both parties to the White House as friends and get to know them and their families well. When it comes to decision making, I will not be a pushover. Any deals we make will be made for the good of the vast middle.

A President should serve the American people in the time that he or she is in service, to the best of their skills and abilities; defining reality and providing hope. He or she should be calmly assertive without being aggressive. I invite you to join my new campaign site. Feel free to keep challenging me with some tough questions. While this is a "very very" long shot, fighting the good fight for Middle America is worth the efforts.

Now, it is up to you and the American people to decide if I am worthy.

Chapter 1: American Ideals & Version 2020

Are we living in a period of domestic tranquility?

Here is the Preamble to our U.S. Constitution: **"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."**

<https://constitutionus.com>

We The People, in order to form a more perfect union should talk respectfully with one another about how we can improve our Federal, State, and Local governments. We are an Inventive and Liberty loving people. We are a nation of Ideals where all men and women are, and should be treated as equals. This is why, when you read my responses about serving the "American Middle", I try not to say serving the "American Middle Class." The American Middle is the "heart and soul and muscle and backbone" of our great country. Now, if you find my positions sensible and worthy, I need the help of "your minds and mouths" in innovating practical solutions and spreading our message of "Strengthening the American Middle."

A Story about VERSION 2020

When I was developing Windows software, I thought that the idea of iteration was cool. This means that each version would be better than the previous one.

VERSION 2020 is the theme of my campaign. What do we want in an American President? In my view, the American Citizen would like one that is not beholden to a political party or special interest group. This is my competitive advantage. I am not a member of a political party. You could say that I am not Democrat enough, not Republican enough, and not Libertarian enough.

SERVICE: Some of you will call me a Democrat. Others will call me a Republican. While I admit to having Libertarian tendencies of preferring smaller government and hands-off the hot button social issues, read on. If a major crisis comes, I will aim to strengthen the vast middle. My political views are moderate, and my economic views are sensible. While I prefer less government and less government spending, I admire what FDR did during some very tough times for our country. This comes back to the point that a President must adjust to the needs of the people during his or her time of service. Now, if the world economy declines precipitously, I would convene a summit of national and world leaders to work out a more coordinated set of deals to gradually correct unbalanced accounts with movement towards more realistic re-valuations of various structured debts. Working together, with America's careful leadership, we can make the world's trade better by advocating for better checks and balances during these revaluations. Why aim for a trade war if we can structure win-win trade revaluations. Fear is not the answer. Rational thinking and careful respectful deal making is the better path towards fairness, friendly competition, and growth.

We would want a President with an attitude of service for "We The People." We would want one that believes in the U.S. Constitution and the checks and balances built into the separation of powers. We would want him or her tell us their personal preferences. We would want one that is honest, able, and trustworthy; one that believes in religious liberty, and the separation of church and state. I am running to serve all the people. However, I do not hide the fact that my preference is to help the American Middle most.

Why do I want to be President? I think and feel that I can do the job better than all the current candidates. I filed an exploratory filing with the Federal Elections Commission to run for President of the United States as an Independent. My political views are moderate, and my economic views are sensible. I like people and believe that every human being deserves respect. Likewise, while we may disagree on policies, I believe that every nation deserves respect. I do not like the negative fighting by the two major parties who still seem to unite on overspending the people's money.

Yes, they do seem to unite in overspending the people's money.

I say like Ross Perot did: "Throw the Bums out!" and let us have sensible term limits. Know that I started out as a Republican moderate. In 2016, I leaned towards the Libertarian Party because of their basic stance towards smaller government and less intrusiveness in social issues. While this social media campaign is highly unconventional, I believe I can do a good job, and hire an able, experienced, honest, and trustworthy staff.

I avoid saying negative things about my competitors. So, I tell you what I admire about different Presidents. I would like to be a good leader like George Washington, wise and uniting like Abraham Lincoln, a disciplined statesman like Dwight D. Eisenhower, inspiring like John Kennedy, politically astute like Lyndon Johnson, humble like Jimmy Carter, forgiving like Gerry Ford, an optimistic and friendly communicator like Ronald Reagan, a fatherly Commander like George H. W. Bush, inspirational like Bill Clinton, protective like George W. Bush, polite like Barack Obama, and entertaining like Donald Trump.

While these are ideals, you get the idea. Each new President should strive to be a better version of his or her predecessors, while serving all of our citizens. Furthermore, we would want him or her to be able to negotiate with all sides respectfully. And, we would want him or her to be able to adjust his or her leadership to the needs of the times calmly, whether the time in office be economic prosperity or economic calamity.

Chapter 2: Current Reality

As I write this, Congress is investigating President Trump for possible impeachment. Three top House Democrats have subpoenaed the White House seeking documents related to President Donald Trump's efforts to pressure Ukrainian officials to target his political rivals. This President does not appear to understand the U.S. Constitution.

We have a government with three separate but equal branches of power. President Trump heads just one of them, the executive branch. Trump refuses to cooperate with another branch of power, the legislative branch. Do the recent actions of asking political help from Ukraine and China constitute a form of bribery or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors? Congress will make this determination. Donald Trump spent most of his life as the CEO of a privately held company. There were disastrous years between 1995 and 2004 when Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts was a public company (investors lost about 90% of their money).

I remember when DJT stock had a 16-to-1 debt to equity ratio. But, for the bulk of his career, Donald Trump has preferred to run things in private his way. This means no public accountability, no quarterly 10-Qs or annual 10-Ks to file with the feds. Immersed in this transparency-free zone for half a century, he has always believed that he wasn't required to answer to anybody. And until announcing his candidacy in 2015, he was right. In 2020, voters will consider whether this is acceptable behavior.

I had not been that political most of my 59 years. In fact most of my books and writings are related to decision making in investing and valuation. Then, in the past year, something changed in me.

First, 4 of my high school classmates died too young; and this made me want to do something bigger for our country before I die. Secondly, being an analytical observer of domestic and international markets, I began to

see a bigger picture of America in our children's and grandchildren's future.

The amount of disturbing and negative behavior of both major parties overspending has given our kids a \$22 Trillion debt to deal with in the future. When that future arrives, will America have more friends or have more enemies?

We are a blessed nation with ample energy resources, a decent but flawed capital raising system, a fairly decent but overpriced education system, and an expensive military complex. But, are we doing enough to promote peaceful and respectful negotiations around the world? Especially when our own politicians are so disrespectful.

We live in a time when the world's economies are still pegged to the US Dollar. However, there are huge credit derivative bubbles around the globe that are in danger of popping. So, in my view, the US must play a respected role in re-valuing and unwinding some of these dangerous derivatives, or risk an unruly and disorganized run on banks around the globe. If such a domino effect were to occur... and if the rest of the world loses faith in our American values, wars can break out around the world. In such a negative scenario, we do not want to send our kids to fight and die in foreign lands.

In my view, we must get our nation more united rather than divided first. Both major political parties are being pulled too far right and too far left, while the vast majority of people are moderate sensible hard working people. Within this vast majority of Middle Americans (I don't like to use the word Class), bankers and politicians have shipped these jobs overseas. Not to mention the coming rise in A.I. automation, our leaders must get together and consider these big issues, and come up with sensible solutions. Pouring more liquidity into New York Banks, that is actually going on now, is only a short term answer. But, this (devaluation of our retirement money) is not the structural solution to longer term stability.

Did we elect a President or a King? George Washington wrote one of the most famous passages of his 1796 farewell address. As he voluntarily retired after two terms, Washington was at pains to warn against all foreign entanglements:

"Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence ... the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government."

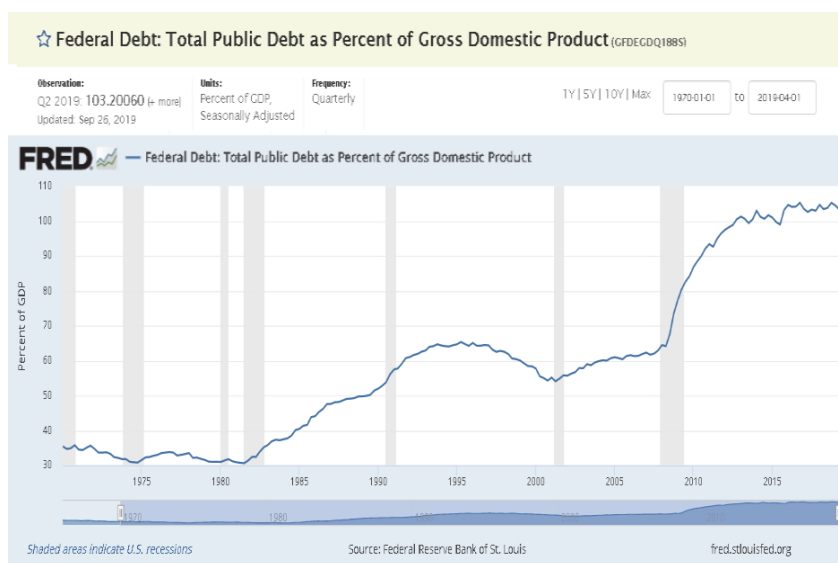
"High crimes and misdemeanors" is a phrase from Section 4 of Article Two of the United States Constitution: "The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

What do you all think?

In my view, the first step is to cool down the political discord in this country. This is why, I am the first candidate (Independent) to consider a conditional pardon for President Trump, and if lucky enough to gain traction, will invite both parties to focus on healing a nation and innovating solutions to our nation's bigger problems. This is why I say: "United We Stand, Divided We Sputter. If Silent, Our Children Will Suffer."

Economic Dangers

Our nation has a \$22 Trillion Dollar Deficit. Both major political parties are responsible for this excessive spending. Both Congress and the Executive Branch need to work on solutions to increase national production and reduce this debt. I discuss possible solutions in Chapter 6.



Market Liquidity, Economy:

The New York Fed is carrying out repo operation (repurchase agreement) to keep fed funds rate in target range. This means adding liquidity (\$\$) to the market. Market participants complained this week that a lack of liquidity in funding markets has pushed the fed funds rate above the interest rate on excess reserves. Analysts say the repurchase operations will boost reserves at banks and help ease funding pressures. Why was this (adding money into NY Banks) necessary? There appears to be less money coming in because of withdrawals and less tax money coming in. Hopefully, this is just a short term problem. But, what does it mean to you and me the voters? It means that there is some amount of fear in the

markets. https://www.marketwatch.com/story/fed-announces-plans-to-carry-out-repo-operation-for-second-straight-day-2019-09-17?link=MW_latest_news

On the subject of Racism: Having experienced a small amount of racism for my light brown skin, I can understand some of this issue. In my view, teaching "respectful communication" and "friendly sporting competition" can help us all make more progress in this area. We must all learn to better judge a man, woman, or child by their civil behavior, honesty, ability, and trustworthiness. Therefore, in my view, society should recognize and address bad behaviors by talking about these things. We have come a long way. We can go even further by discussing the ideals of civil behavior, honesty, ability, and trustworthiness.

Chapter 3: Positions of Strength

In God We Trust. I support "a minute of prayer and reflection on kindness and respect" in all schools. I support religious liberty and admire the various ways different religions pray to God. In my view, if your child is an atheist or agnostic, "a minute of reflection on kindness and respect" can help her or him grow into a good adult citizen. As many of you know, I am not a church guy, but study and admire this period of Christian history.

Campaign Cash: I am running a cashless campaign. No funds will be collected nor spent. This is a purely social media campaign where interested voters can spread our Version 2020 message, ideas, and policies outlined here.

Leadership: I have family members in both major political parties. My political views are moderate, and my economic views are rational and sensible. I aim to be a good leader like George Washington, wise and uniting like Abraham Lincoln, a disciplined statesman like Dwight D. Eisenhower, inspiring like John Kennedy, politically astute like Lyndon Johnson, humble like Jimmy Carter, forgiving like Gerry Ford, an optimistic and friendly communicator like Ronald Reagan, a fatherly Commander like George H. W. Bush, inspirational like Bill Clinton, protective like George W. Bush, polite like Barack Obama, and entertaining like Donald Trump. While these are ideals, you get the idea. Each new President should strive to be a better version of his or her predecessors, while serving all of our citizens.

Guns

On the issue of gun control, I favor better checks and balances as well as registration and licensing. "I think each sensible adult should have the right to bear arms, registered like a driver's license." On the multiple clip guns, I would add a basic psychological exam clearance from a doctor of Psychiatry as well as a mandatory gun safety course monitored by the local

police. Airplane Pilots are required to have training and checkups. So, owners of multiple clip guns should probably have the same higher hurdle to clear. "In summary, I support a multiple layered gun licensing system that depends on the power of the weapon. Next, what about the gangs and mentally disturbed? Better monitoring and periodic intervention by the FBI; something like the way we monitor potential terrorist networks, and intervene before a bad event. The intelligence concept of "Stimulus Based Discovery" was used to reveal the Columbian Drug Lord Pablo Escobar. This could be modified and applied more at the local levels. They have tools that could be applied to this problem. In summary, more innovative thinking is needed in this area."

"This problem made me think of something needed at the middle and high school levels. In the health and safety class, they should add a module on "dispute resolution." Kids are exposed to a lot of shooting video games. However, they are not taught how to break-up a relationship respectfully, nor how to agree-to-disagree with each other."

Healthcare

Tim Smith asked: What are your views on making health care affordable for all? This is one that I will be thinking a lot about, costs and quality. So, for today, I will simply mention some of my observations that the federal and state governments will be addressing. First, know that I believe in free market capitalism and fair competition. But, I have noticed that the current system has incentivized hospital systems to overbuild and duplicate more expensive buildings in some metropolitan areas. At the same time, rural areas continue to be underserved. Thus, some realignment is needed. Secondly, many of these systems function under the umbrella of 501c non-taxed areas. So, would you and the people like to see a 1% or 2% tax placed on these kinds of systems? Furthermore, ask yourself, should we merge Medicare and Medicaid into one "standard creating" agency? Many smart folks are already working on these ideas, and I look forward to reviewing them. I expect to see some innovative ideas come from this new health-care venture announced by Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. called Haven. Haven unveiled a website, havenhealthcare.com, with a letter from Chief

Executive Officer Atul Gawande, the surgeon, Harvard professor and writer chosen to lead the venture.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/.../amazon-ipmorgan-berkshire>

Thirdly, my administration will look seriously at highlighting executives who are taking "too much off the top" of some of these companies. While I am not a socialist, I know there are some profit abusers out there who will lobby against our campaign.

Public Education

My first major policy focuses on teaching “respectable behaviors” from K-to-12 education. I also want to promote merit-based teacher pay.

Campaign Cash

I am running a cashless campaign. No funds will be collected nor spent. This is a purely social media campaign where interested voters can spread the message and policies outlined here.

Foreign Policy

I support respectful negotiations with all nations. I believe that NATO needs a strong defense against Russia’s and Radical’s assaults on Western democracy.

Rural America

I support revitalizing rural America. For too many rural Americans, a pathway to the middle class is out of reach. A faster internet system and good roads can help citizens in rural America.

College

In this case, I lean towards the Democrats goal of expanding educational opportunities and reducing college debt levels. This 1 year of Free College

in return for 1 year of public service can be as simple as teaching the US Constitution to young people in their community.

Immigration

I favor a humane and rational immigration policy that upholds our constitutional values. “I think we need a sensible pathway towards citizenship for people that already live here. I support a border wall with monitored buffer zone on both sides of the wall. It need not be huge if it is monitored by drones or satellite. Then, I would recommend processing towns on each side of the wall where both the US and Mexico process folks for legal immigration (same time restrictions as folks who come here legally). Cost? The towns should be funded and monitored by the U.N., have a town management team. Such a managed system could also be a model system for other places in the world where illegal immigration is occurring. The bottom line is that all people should abide by the laws of that country. And a process for legal immigration should include learning some English and some basic rules and laws of this land. How to keep smugglers and bad gangs out? See my posting on tracking gangs and potential terrorists on that previous posting on layers of multi-clip gun control.”

Marijuana and other Drugs

I would like to see this area as a States issue monitored/studied by the FDA.

Abolishing the Electoral College

I would put this issue to the people as a vote on the next federal election. I believe in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Packing the Supreme Court

I am a political moderate and an independent candidate. I would appoint an experienced and respected judge who would lean towards the basic values stated within the US Constitution.

Criminal Justice Reform

I believe in the need to review and continuously improve the criminal justice system.

Reproductive Rights

I believe that this issue should be resolved at the States level. But, I respect current laws. Here I lean towards the Libertarian view of government's minimal intervention in social issues and respecting individual liberties.

Voting Rights

I believe that every adult citizen has the right to vote; but, criminals in prison do not have this privilege to participate. I want to protect our elections from foreign interference.

Reparations

I do not support the idea of reparations. I supports "fair playing field" based on honesty and ability for all people.

Chapter 4: Positions of Flexibility

Military & Military Spending: First, know that I favor a strong military that is capable of winning 2 wars; one in Asia and one in Europe. However, also know that we have enough missiles to do this. So, in my view, the big issue is "spending efficiency." Do we need this many aircraft carriers? Perhaps we should look at this aspect of the Navy as a big government jobs program. Now, if we look at the military as a supplemental jobs program, we as citizens need to ask the question: Is this the best way to address jobs and military readiness? This is something we all need to talk about.

No to Medicare-for-All.

I do not support Medicare-for-All, instead favoring a hybrid model of a public model that competes with Fee-For-Services. Competition is what will improve quality and care.

No need to Closing the Wealth Gap.

I pledge to strengthen the American middle class. This will require compromises from all sides. I favor closing some "tax loopholes" by encouraging the public to discuss a simpler taxation system. Like Joe Biden, I also want to crack down on the use of non-compete clauses that make it difficult for workers to change jobs. I pledge to encourage the superrich to invest in America's future.

Climate Change

I believe in reinforcing the Clean Air Act to combat growing transportation sector emissions. I pledge to promote innovation to help reduce pollution, including a review of federal permitting decisions. I am still weak on the climate change issue and will need your help in understanding this better.

More Power “We to the People”

My friend, Frank Dillman Sr. shared his a post about Initiative and Referendum (I&R). Frank describes a new process of greater citizen access state, county, and municipal government. We would like to see this adopted nationally.

Initiative is the right of citizens to place statutes or ordinances or constitutional amendments on a ballot. Referendum is the right for citizens to vote on statutes.

As Frank has described, I&R as it should be, is not a simple process because we have lawmakers who supposedly represent us. However, when representation is unsatisfactory citizen legislators, using I&R, can represent themselves in this Direct Democracy process.

Citizens in 26 states have forms of the I&R process. Over 70% of citizens nationwide have similar access to I&R since NYC, Atlanta, and several other major cities in Georgia, and all large municipalities in Texas have this right, though not so statewide.

Two national polls showed likely voters were in favor of this process. In particular, in June 2010, 500 likely voters in each state were asked if they wanted access to the process. The vast national support was 67%, which proved that citizens with the right, prefer it. Citizens of Alabama want it. In Alabama it is still buried in committee by the leadership.

Direct democracy is a global phenomenon. The 2019 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy just concluded in Taiwan.

According to Frank, I&R has its roots in ancient Greece and Rome. Switzerland (1848) was the original county providing their residents with this process, South Dakota (1849) is the first state, and Mississippi (1992) is the most recent one.

“In the essay, ‘Federalist No. 19,’ James Madison wrote: ‘As the people are the only legitimate fountain of power, and it is from them that the constitution charter, under which the several branches of government hold their power, is derived, it seem strictly consonant to the republican theory to recur to the same original authority... whenever it may be necessary to enlarge, diminish, or new model the powers of government.’”
Ballotpedia.org

For a meager sample of the origin of I&R in our states include Oregon with an overwhelming approval in 1902 (11-1 margin), Nevada (10-1 margin) in 1912, and Mississippi (3-1) in 1992.

Arizona in 1912 ratified women suffrage by a 3-1 margin by initiative. Two years afterward the poll tax, voters in California, (ratified 1911 by 3-1 margin) outlawed it with by initiative. In 2011 Mississippi voters overwhelming approved a strong Eminent Domain initiative (73.06% favored and 26.94 opposed), whereas property seized by eminent domain for the purpose of flipping it for economic development (*Kelo v New London, CT*) must be retained by that government for 10 years.

In 2013, with the use of an initiative, citizens of St. Petersburg defeated the council-approved shape of the “Lens” pier by a 63.35 percent majority. Citizens’ objections to the proposed design fell upon deaf ears during city council meetings. Some claim, this action is insignificant; however, it proves “the people are the only legitimate fountain of power.”

For more information, visit Facebook/LetBamaVote

Facebook/LetAmericansVote, and <http://letbamavote.org/>

Thanks Frank Dillman Sr. for education me on all of this. Now, we should figure out how we can apply this to the federal level, getting initiatives on the Congressional Calendar, and help the House of Representatives do their jobs more effectively.

Chapter 5 Respectful Negotiation

Recession or No Recession? Economic slowdown or no slowdown? And what should the Federal Government do for the people? First, the technical definition of a recession is 2 quarters, or 6 months, of negative growth... normally visible in real GDP, real income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales. In my view, the role of Government leadership is to monitor, recognize, and act to minimize the negative impacts of an economic downturn. In the great housing bubble burst of 2008, big banks were infused with cash. However, many say that this cash was not lent out to the smaller business who needed it most. The tricky part is finding ways to help the most number of Americans in the middle as well as those in dire circumstances. Such leadership requires careful thinking as well as a compassionate heart. Furthermore, I would need to be careful to not be underreactive nor overreactive. Luckily, we have a strong country with better oil and gas resources that we had in the 1970's and 80s. In short summary, it would require a lot of careful thinking before any tweeting. Now, if the world economy declines precipitously, I would convene a summit of world leaders to work out a more coordinated set of deals to gradually correct unbalanced accounts with movement towards more realistic re-valuations of various structured debts. Working together, with careful leadership, we can make the world's trade better by advocating for better checks and balances during these revaluations. Why aim for a trade war if we can structure win-win trade revaluations. Fear is not the answer. Rational thinking and careful respectful deal making is the better path towards fairness and friendly competition.

Chapter 6: Possible Solutions

How can we reduce the nation's debt? First, we all must recognize the problem. The basic answer is to reduce federal spending and increase national productivity and collect more taxes (domestically or internationally).

Donald Trump has chosen the path of threatening a Trade War and raising Tariffs (international taxes).

Tariffs & Import Certificates: As President, I will define reality and provide hope. One idea that Congress should have taken more seriously back in 2003 was "Import Certificates." Import certificates are a proposed mechanism to implement balanced trade, and eliminate a country's trade deficit. This idea was proposed by Warren Buffett in 2003 to address the U.S. trade deficit. Basically, the goal is to collect as much money that is equal to the value of money leaving the country.

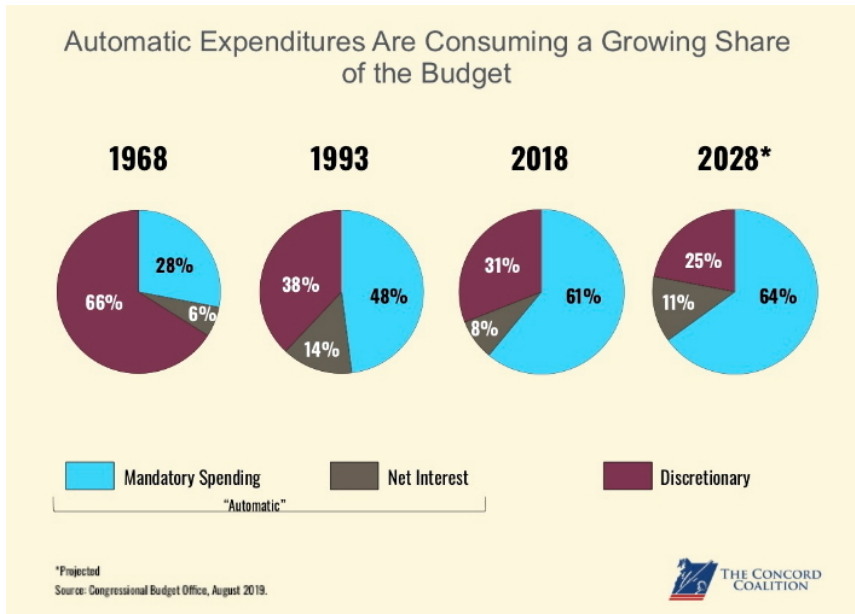
In the United States, the idea was first introduced legislatively in the Balanced Trade Restoration Act of 2006. The proposed legislation was sponsored by Senators Byron Dorgan (ND) and Russell Feingold (WI), two Democrats in the United States senate. Since then there has been no action on the bill.

We should recognize that Governments need a little tax money to operate. So, I acknowledge that a small tax by each nation is reasonable. Imagine for a moment, a 2% tax on all goods entering your country.

The beauty of Buffett's idea is that Import Certificate prices are market based, rather than government driven. Warren Buffett's plan proposes creating a market for transferable import certificates, (ICs) that would represent the right to import a certain dollar amount of goods into the United States. These transferable ICs would be issued to US exporters in an amount equal to the dollar amount of the goods they export and they could only be utilized once. They could be sold or traded to importers, who must purchase them in order to legally import goods into the USA. The price of ICs are set by (free-market) forces, and are therefore dependent on the balance between entrepreneurs' willingness to pay the ICs market price for importing goods into the USA and the global volume of goods exported from the USA, (i.e. supply and demand).

The Spending Side:

Both Congress and the Executive Branch need to work on solutions to increase national production and reduce this debt. If elected, I would work respectfully with the leaders of both parties to trim spending. This would be done carefully in order to minimize the impact on Middle America and America's poor citizens.



Lobbyists & Special Interests:

While one of my goals would be to decrease the number and power of big money lobbyists and special interests in Washington, what are these guys and gals to do for jobs? My answer: Lobby directly to you the American Middle by buying and making better, more informative commercials. They should be lobbying more directly to the people and less to Representatives and Senators. Designing such a scenario can put more power in the hands of voters.

Chapter 7: Reasons for Optimism

Advanced software systems can be invented/innovated to reduce corruption by following the money trail and exposing corruption. After the 9/11/01 attack on the World Trade Center, the U.S. started tracking bank transfers of > than 10 thousand dollars. Also, internet journalism helped expose off-shore accounts in the "Panama Papers." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtvaNIQN0DY>

Political Past

Know that I started out as a Republican moderate. In 2016, I leaned towards the Libertarian Party because of their basic stance towards smaller government and less intrusiveness in social issues. While this social media campaign is highly unconventional, I believe I can do a good job, and hire an able, experienced, honest, and trustworthy staff.

Chapter 8: Closing Statement

Why do I want to be President? I think and feel that I can do the job better than all the current candidates. I filed an exploratory filing with the Federal Elections Commission to run for President of the United States as an Independent. My political views are moderate, and my economic views are sensible. I like people and believe that every human being deserves respect. Likewise, while we may disagree on policies, I believe that every nation deserves respect. I do not like the negative fighting by the two major parties who still seem to unite on overspending the people's money. I say like Ross Perot did: "Throw the Bums out!" and let us have sensible term limits. Know that I started out as a Republican moderate.

In 2016, I leaned towards the Libertarian Party because of their basic stance towards smaller government and less intrusiveness in social issues. While this social media campaign is highly unconventional, I believe I can do a good job, and hire an able, experienced, honest, and trustworthy staff. Win or Lose, we will get our views heard.

I was born on January 9th, 1960 in Welch West Virginia. I am a Christian with views lean towards the ideals of the early days of a pre-organized church. My father was from the Philippines and my mother is from West Virginia. I respect the US Military. Two of my uncles served in the US Air Force and one uncle in the US Navy. My brothers and sister were born in the Philippines. So, you could say that Mom and I are the only ones eligible to run for this office. In my view, we should have a law that permits a naturalized citizen of good standing who has lived in the United States for 20 years, over the age of 35, be permitted to run. My siblings are as American as I am. And, they too love our country.

My education includes earning a BS in Biological Sciences, an MD and an MBA. Early in my career, I was a Board Certified Family Physician and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. I have also been a small time stock investor, speaker, and author of several books on decision framing and decision making, as well as valuation. I also look

fondly back at the time I was a grocery stock boy, Inland Steel labor worker, and Resident Assistant at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. In me you are getting a 59 year old candidate in good health and spirit, with a good memory, and a good heart. Mostly, I like people and believe that every human being deserves respect.

While my friends might say I am a serious guy who talks slowly, I am always analyzing and thinking. Put a good band in front of me and I might just pull out my harmonica and join in. If you elect me, I will invite political leaders of both parties to the White House as friends and get to know them and their families well. However, when it comes to decision making, I will not be a pushover. Any deals we make will be made for the good of the vast middle.

What kind of President can I be? I would like to be a good leader like George Washington, wise and uniting like Abraham Lincoln, a disciplined statesman like Dwight D. Eisenhower, inspiring like John Kennedy, politically astute like Lyndon Johnson, humble like Jimmy Carter, forgiving like Gerry Ford, an optimistic and friendly communicator like Ronald Reagan, a fatherly Commander like George H. W. Bush, inspirational like Bill Clinton, protective like George W. Bush, polite like Barack Obama, and entertaining like Donald Trump. While these are ideals, you get the idea. Each new President should strive to be a better version of his or her predecessors, while serving all of our citizens.

A President should serve the American people in the time that he or she is in service, to the best of their skills and abilities; defining reality and providing hope... being calmly assertive without being aggressive. I invite you to join my new campaign site. Feel free to challenge me with some tough questions. While this is a "very very very" long shot, fighting the good fight for Middle America is worth the efforts.

Rhetoric is supposed to be the art of persuasion. But, when we have heard so much negative talk from both major political parties, we yearn for civility. In my view, Civility is an American ideal that should be restored.

Civility allows both sides to talk about the big issues and compromise in crafting bills that are win-win deals.

Think of my social media campaign as Behavioral Nudge. As you may know, Nudge is a concept in behavioral science, political theory and behavioral economics which proposes positive reinforcement and indirect suggestions as ways to influence the behavior and decision making of groups or individuals. If enough people start thinking at a higher, less emotional, level... perhaps we can facilitate better behaviors and civility in the Executive and Legislative branches of our government. I do not like the negative fighting by the two major parties who still seem to unite on overspending the people's money.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/479770335913630/>

